

Moses Gaskill House (Tract #11219)
West side of Route W. 1.2 miles northwest of its
intersection with the South Grand River
Deepwater Vicinity
Henry County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1244

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PHOTOGRAPHS
DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1244

MOSES GASKILL HOUSE
(Tract #11219)

Location: West side route W, 1.2 miles northwest of its intersection with the South Grand River, approximately 4 miles east-northeast of Brownington, Deepwater Vicinity, Henry County, Missouri.

USGS Gaines Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Coordinates: 15.442740.4235230.

Present Owner: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: This unusual four room house with some Classical moldings over doors and windows is arranged in a cross plan.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Condition of fabric: Fair. The house has been vacant for a few years and has been vandalized, but is still substantially sound.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This one-and-a-half story house arranged in a cross plan has a four-bay front, 38'-2" wide, by 27'-4" deep.
2. Foundation: There is a fine random ashlar sandstone basement and foundation. Some concrete has been introduced between the top stone course and the wooden structure of the house, indicating that the house may have been leveled.
3. Wall construction: Weatherboards on balloon frame.
4. Structural system, framing: Balloon frame
5. Porches: There is a porch in each of the four corners of the plan. The floor level of the porches on the north side seems to have dropped, as the porches are about 18" lower than

6. Chimneys: There are two brick stove chimneys. One flue in the center of the plan continues down to the basement for support. The second flue is at the center of the rear (south) wall of the kitchen. The bricks are stamped "FFV" for Fedonia Fired Vitreous, from Fedonia, Kansas.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The door frames have cyma recta moldings as a cornice element on the lintels. There are two door types: the first has four vertical rectangular panels, two longer ones above two shorter ones, and the second has a square glass panel in the upper part of the door; with a horizontal rectangular panel above and three horizontal panels below.
 - b. Windows: The windows have one-over-one-light double hung wood sashes. The window in the center of the north wall of the center north room has a small narrow horizontal pane above a large square movable pane. This window is much wider than the other windows. The typical window frames have straight lintels, but the small square window in the projecting gable in the north facade has a peaked lintel.
8. Roof: The gable roof with white asphalt shingles over wood shingles encompasses the four corner porches. There are cross gables on the north and south facades; all gables have returned eaves with small shingled quarter-hip roofs.

C. Description of Interior:

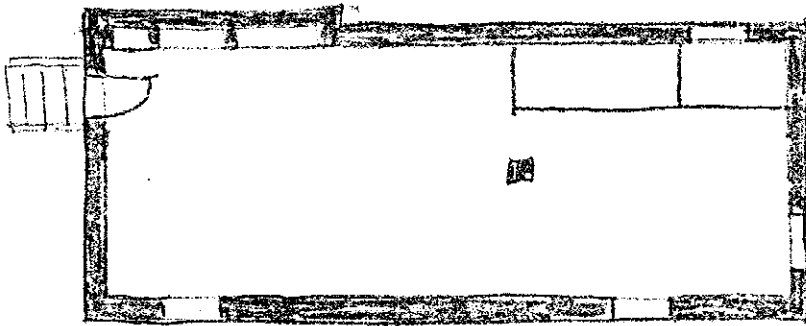
1. Floor plan:
 - a. Basement: The stone-lined basement is entered by stairs at the east end of the house. Three niches in stone are located just inside the door in the southeast corner of the basement, and there are wooden storage bins in the southeast corner. A plastered brick column in the center supports the chimney and flue above.
 - b. First floor: The first floor has four rooms arranged in a cross plan. Porches fill the four corners.
2. Stairways: There is an exterior stone stairway to the basement at the east end of the plan.
3. Flooring: Wood flooring, painted around the perimeters of the rooms.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Wallpaper over plaster on wood lath.
5. Openings: Door and window frames are surmounted by lintels with cornice-like cyma recta moldings. The moldings in the north central rooms have egg and dart moldings stamped into them. These cornice elements appear to be a standard pre-fabricated element.

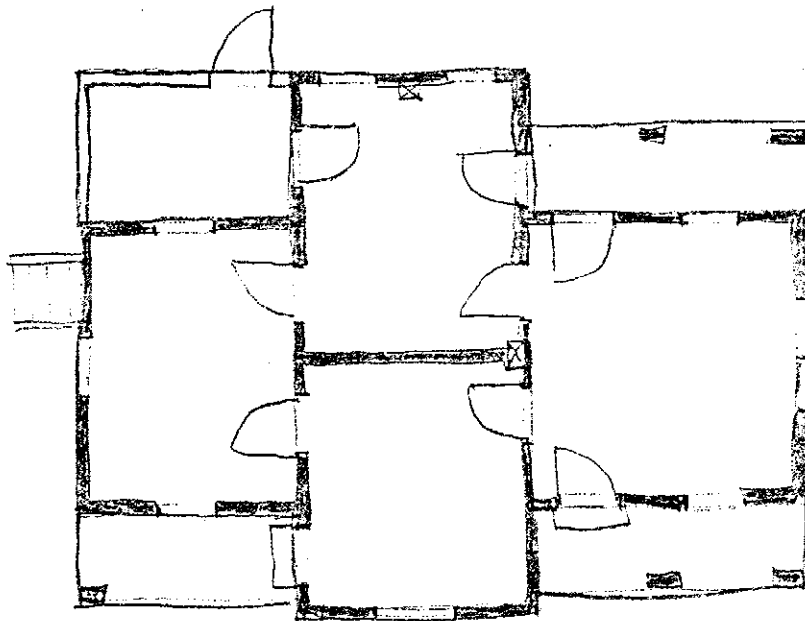
D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: House faces north at the top of a hill; two wells and a cistern are located near the house.
2. Outbuildings: There is a wooden smokehouse on top of a concrete root cellar behind the house. The rear door from the southeast corner porch leads directly into the smokehouse. The entry to the root cellar is from a stairway at grade on the east side of the structure.

Prepared by William Brookover
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Summer 1977



BASEMENT PLAN GASKILL HOUSE
#11219



FIRST FLOOR PLAN GASKILL HOUSE
#11219

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Truman Reservoir Project was funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, in compliance with Executive Order 11593 as a mitigative effort in the construction of the Harry S Truman Dam and Reservoir, in the summer of 1977. William Brookover (Columbia University), supervisor; Michael Connor (University of Virginia), team foreman; Gary Baker (Catholic University), Edwin Daniel (Mississippi State), and Gary Statkus (University of Illinois), student architects; Paul Weed (Columbia University), architectural historian.